

# Casemate



**What's  
Inside**

## Care Bears ...

The holidays are going to be much more special for hundreds of local kids, thanks to a ASMC project.

..... **Page 3**

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December 17, 2004

## Post Vet Clinic to close Dec. 30

The Fort Monroe Veterinary Treatment Facility will close its doors at Building T-191 for the last time on Dec. 30.

The 1931-era wooden building that has housed the facility since April is slated for removal as part of a sweeping post modernization effort. In a Dec. 1 letter to patrons, post VTF officials noted that there are currently no plans for construction of a new facility on Monroe.

While appointments have been scheduled at the facility through Dec. 27, clinic personnel request that patrons make immediate arrangements to transfer their pets' records. All records that are not spoken for will be automatically sent to the Langley Air Force Base VTF.

In addition to Langley, other options for veterinary services include Forts Eustis and Story as well as Naval Station Norfolk, the VTF letter noted. Civilian care providers may also be selected.

The Fort Monroe facility is currently open weekdays from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, or to make pet record transfer arrangements, call 788-4482.



## Jingle Jog

Fun, creativity highlight Monroe's holiday tradition.

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Photo by Patrick Buffett

**Featuring guest performers Matt Ashford and Christina Saffron Ashford, pictured above, as well as the Old Dominion University Choir, The U.S. Continental Army Band's Holiday Celebration Concert Dec. 10 at the Post Theater "packed the house." For more pictures and details, see Page 11.**

## MWR offers prizes for healthy habits

**BY PATRICK BUFFETT**  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Beginning Jan. 3, Fort Monroe community members will have a whole new reason for maintaining good fitness and a healthy diet.

Several major prizes – to include a seven-day spa resort vacation package and a BowFlex by Nautilus home gym – are being offered during a special program titled "Lighten Up, Tighten Up!" for Morale, Welfare and Recreation division patrons who practice healthy habits.

"The timing of this program is perfect," said Lisa Diddlemeyer, the Monroe MWR marketing specialist who is coordinating the effort locally. "So many of our customers make that New Year's resolution to get in shape or watch their diet, and this is that little extra incentive to help them succeed."

The three main facilities that will be involved in the program are the Bowling Center, the Fitness Center and the Community Activities Center, Diddlemeyer explained.

The Fort Monroe Bowl will be offering a special menu featuring a wide

variety of healthy food options such as low-fat sandwiches, Adkins burgers and an assortment of fresh salads. Each time a patron purchases one of these menu items, they will receive a



*"So many of our customers make that New Year's resolution to get in shape or watch their diet, and this is that little extra incentive to help them succeed."*

**Lisa Diddlemeyer**

Fort Monroe MWR Marketing Specialist

"Healthy Meal Card" stamp. Once the cards are full (10 stamps), Diddlemeyer said they can be redeemed for some "cool" fitness prizes like pedometers, talking jump ropes and fitness and walking journals.

"The completed cards will also be entered into the grand prize drawing, which will be conducted by Army MWR at the end of the promotion on March 31," Diddlemeyer said. Patrons from all of the installations who participated in the promotion will be eligible for the grand prizes, which also include two gas grills provided by Gardenburger. The online travel agency GovArm.com is providing the resort vacation package.

Bowling Center patrons can pick up their "Lighten Up, Tighten Up!" meal cards now, Diddlemeyer noted. However, she reemphasized that the promotion doesn't begin until the first working day of the New Year.

Complementing the Bowling Center's healthy menu portion of the promotion will be a series of activities offered by the Fitness Center and youth and adult sports programs, said

**See MWR CAMPAIGN, Page 3**

Clean Sweep Walk, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fitness Center



*"Let us remember those things that truly give meaning to this time of year."*

## This is a time for reflection

**I**t is my sincerest hope that each member of the Fort Monroe community experiences a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

As we share in the spirit of celebration and joy – whether at home or while visiting family and friends – let us remember those things that truly give meaning to this time of year. Our faith ... our humanity ... our capacity to love our neighbors and forgive our enemies ... those are the notions upon which this season flourishes.

This is also the time of year when we reflect most on the meaning of family, whether it's the cherished spouse at our side, the small child we tuck in at night, or even the many moms, dads, sons and daughters who are spending this holiday season far from home while serving their nation in the name of freedom. On their behalf, we offer our prayers of peace and safe journey.

Let us also remember that this is a time of year when people of every religion, and every race, cele-

### 2004 Holiday Message



**Col. Perry D. Allmendinger**  
GARRISON COMMANDER

brate their cherished beliefs. Many look skyward and imagine a brilliant shining star heralding the arrival of the Christ child more than 2,000 years ago. His simple birth among animals in a manger reminds us that pride and possessions are not the fabric of mankind ... we bring light to the world because of our spirit of humility and caring for our fellow man.

There is a special feeling that we all share during the holiday season. We know in our hearts that the celebration of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, and so forth, is not a thing; it is a feeling. It is from within.

And, as we look to the New Year, we can only hope and pray as individuals and as a community that each

day of 2005 will be used to build peace and friendship across our nation and around the world.

To that end, let's make a simple vow that we will endeavor each day to make our community a better place by offering words of encouragement or lending a helping hand to those in need.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your tremendous teamwork and support over the past year. Our community ... our family ... is second to none.

May all of us both give and receive the great gift of unselfish love this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

### May we all experience good health, safe travels

**I** extend to you and your families my warmest regards during this holiday season. May we all experience good health and safe travels as we celebrate at home, in the barracks or in the company of loved ones.

This is a wonderful time of year when each one of us should be grateful for those things with which we have been blessed — be it friends, family, a successful career or the strong moral values that allow us to both give and graciously receive in the spirit of the season.

Let us also be mindful of our fellow Soldiers who are deployed far from home

and continue the fight against global terrorism. Know that they are our brothers and sisters and that we bring them strength through our best wishes and prayers.

I also urge you to look

#### Command Sgt. Maj. David E. Williams

out for the single and unaccompanied Soldiers who remain behind this holiday season. Be aware that the spirit of joy is not always easily felt and your gestures of caring are greatly appreciated. On a broader scale, I also hope we will

look out for each other. Coming from a friend or loved one, the words "let me drive you home" or "we should pull over and get some rest" are seldom dismissed.

And, as 2004 draws to a close, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our great Soldiers, the wonderful civilian workforce, and the supportive community for making Fort Monroe a tremendous place to live and work every day.

May each of you have a joyous holiday and may the new year bring success and prosperity to our community.

*"... One prevailing theme in each of our stories is the love from those people who accepted us with no strings attached."*

## Friendship is a great gift from God

**T**his time of year is special indeed. The world seems alive with festive sights and sounds and we take great joy in recalling some of our most treasured memories of the past. There are also times when the world seems to stand still ... a pause to celebrate peace and good will to all men.

It's Christmas, and over the years I have discovered that the most important gift one can give and get is that of friendship. Oftentimes, the word friendship is taken for granted and we forget

### Chaplain's Corner



**Lt. Col. Wilbert Harrison**  
Post Chaplain

how important it is to have true companions in our life.

Friendship in and of itself is special. It is not something you can buy at the store. It is a gift from one person to the other.

One of the highlights of this time of the year is when coworkers get together and share food and each other's company. This is a part of the Christmas gift to us.

In the chaplain's office, we gather with coworkers and have each person share their most memorable Christmas story. For some,

looking back can be painful as well as rewarding as they sort through the good and the difficult times.

But the one prevailing theme in each of our stories is the love from those people who accepted us with no strings attached. This is what I refer to as a gift from God.

In Proverbs 18:24 it reads, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." The gift of friendship goes deeper than that of being a relative. It is price-

less and one should treasure it because it too is a little bit of Christmas given to man and without it we soon lose the real joy of the holiday season.

The greatest gift we can receive this Christmas is the gift of God's son, the Christ child. Matthew 1:23 sates, "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him 'Immanuel,' which means God with us." The gift God gives us does not come to us once a year; it is a gift that is year-round

**See CHAPLAIN, Page 9**

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## Casemate

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# Comptroller group's cute, furry creations to bring holiday cheer to local children

BY PATRICK BUFFETT  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Cleverly cloaked in tiny T-shirts, dresses, hats and even a military uniform or two, a hoard of fluffy, furry critters marched out of the Northeast Region headquarters building here last week to join the ranks of the Salvation Army.

In days to come, the Teddies will have one simple mission — go forth and win the hearts of little children throughout Hampton Roads.

"This is such a great project because it benefits kids from less fortunate families who, literally, may not get any other toys over the holidays," said Diane King, a NERO employee who serves as Army chairperson for the American Society of Military Comptrollers (Hampton Roads Chapter), Community Services Committee.

AMSC members and volunteers — representing each of the military services on "both sides of the tunnel" — gussied up a total of 581 Teddy Bears over the past several weeks, according to King. They also filled more than 500 stockings with candy, small toys and even clothing, which will go to needy children between the ages of infant and 16 in the area.

*"How can you not feel something special knowing what this program is all about?"*

**Woodrena Curtis**  
NORTHEAST REGION EMPLOYEE

Local employees and AMSC members have participated in the Salvation Army effort, appropriately titled "The Christmas Stockings and Dress a Bear Programs," for many years. According to June Yaskowsky, program coordinator, the need for the charity project continues to grow annually, with more than 4,000 Tidewater-area families qualifying for assistance this year.

"The time and loving care these volunteers put into this project is so very much appreciated. They're our life's blood. We couldn't do it without them," Yaskowsky said. "And the reward for me personally is that look of genuine appreciation on a parent's face when he or she knows they'll have something special for their child on Christmas morning. That's something the volunteers don't usually get to see, but I'm guessing they still feel it in their heart. It's that spirit of giving."

"I get goose bumps every time I walk into this



Photo by Patrick Buffett

***Diane King, a NERO employee and Army chairperson for the American Society of Military Comptrollers (Hampton Roads Chapter), Community Services Committee, poses with the many dressed-up bears contributed by volunteers from Fort Monroe and the surrounding community. The bears will go to less-fortunate children in the Tidewater area.***

room," said Woodrena Curtis, one of King's coworkers at NERO as she breezed into the conference area where a gaggle of 150 bears crowded three large tables last Wednesday. Visitors also had to climb their way around several boxes stuffed with loaded stockings. Pointing at one of the stuffed toys adorned in a polka-dotted clown outfit, Curtis exclaimed, "There's my bear!"

"How can you not feel something special knowing what this program is all about?" Curtis added.

"The excitement level among all of our volunteers has just been overwhelming," King said a short while later. "Their level of caring can be

seen in that room among all the brightly colored outfits those bears are wearing. You can tell that they put a great deal of thought into making each bear special, because that's what every child deserves."

King noted that the AMSC also participates in three other significant charity projects — which benefit the Special Olympics, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society — throughout the year. For more information on how you can help, or become a member of AMSC, contact Robin Thomas, membership committee chairperson, at 788-4397.

## MWR CAMPAIGN

Continued from Page 1

Diddlemeyer. The Fitness Center's main event is the "Buns on the Run" 5K Run/1-Mile Walk planned for Feb. 14 starting at noon. The first 50 participants to show up for that event will receive a free T-shirt. No pre-registration is required.

"Jeanette (Coffman), our Fitness and Wellness Program coordinator, is also working on a few exciting ideas that will be associated with existing programs at her facility," Diddlemeyer said.

Fitness Center patrons are invited to join the FitLinxx program — an online personal training system that monitors all aspects of your

workout — and compete for prizes at the end of each month. Each exercise and weight training activity performed accumulates points. Prizes will vary depending on the amount of points accumulated.

Coffman and her staff will also host a "Climb the Mountain" competition. For each cycling class attended at the Fitness Center, patrons will move up a level on a display that will be shaped like a mountain. Each person to reach the top will receive one of the prizes being offered.

Keep reading the Casemate for more details about these programs or any new ideas that are being

considered for the campaign

Diddlemeyer said "Lighten Up, Tighten Up!" is just one of many new MWR projects customers will see in the near future both locally and at the Army level. It's all part of an new awareness campaign that began with the release of a new slogan — "For All of Your Life" — over the summer.

"Our goal is to highlight the many services MWR provides. This latest project is indicative of our organization's sense of caring. This is about your health and well-being. We're counting on people to have fun ... that's a lot of what we're all about," she said.

## Spotlight Event

***The Hon. Dwight C. Jones, member of the Virginia House of Delegates (70th District), will be the featured speaker for the installation's Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday observance Jan. 11 at 1 p.m., in the Post Theater. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 788-4122.***



# USAAC receives ‘caring, compassionate’ leader

**BY SGT. 1ST CLASS REGINALD P. ROGERS**  
TRADOC NEWS SERVICE

FORT MONROE, Va. – Described by his peers as a “caring and compassionate” leader, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp officially accepted the title of U.S. Army Accessions Commander during a Dec. 10 ceremony here at the Community Activities Center.

Van Antwerp, who last served as commanding general, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and commandant of the U.S. Army Engineer School, is the second general to lead Accessions Command. His predecessor – Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin – retired in May.

Among the honored guests attending the ceremony was Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC commanding general, who officially received the USAAC colors from the command’s most senior NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Perry L. Roberts, and passed them on to Van Antwerp.

“It’s a great day for the Army when we can officially put in the command one of the Army’s top talents,” Byrnes said afterward. “(Accessions Command) is absolutely critical to our mission today, when we find ourselves in a conflict that will endure; where war has become the steady-state environment in which we live; and peace has become the exception.”

Byrnes also acknowledged the commanders and troops who represented USAAC’s three subordinate commands during the ceremony. Those organizations are: the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, U.S. Army Cadet Command and the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, S.C., which oversees the basic and advanced individual training of more Soldiers than any of

the Army’s other training centers as well as the U.S. Army drill sergeant program.

Byrnes commended USAREC’s commanding general, Maj. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, on the efforts of his organization.

“Recruiting Command, now for five years in a row, has done exceptionally great work in recruiting the talent we need and the right numbers we need to support an Army.”

He also added positive comments for the Soldiers of Cadet Command, who are led by Maj. Gen. Alan W. “Bud” Thrasher.

“We were asked to recruit 4,000 and we got 4,400,” he said. “We are a nation at war and we’re going to stay at war, yet we get tremendous talent out of our colleges and universities. It’s largely (due to) the officers and noncommissioned officers in Cadet Command who make that happen everyday.”

Byrnes went on to explain how the Accessions Command plays a vital role as the Army continues its transition into a combat-ready force of warriors.

“At a time when the nation is at war ... we place on the shoulders of this commander an awful lot of responsibility to get things right. Because we will not send Soldiers into harm’s way untrained, and we will not be deficient in sending an inappropriate number of Soldiers to commanders who need them.

“The Army is expanding by 30,000,” he continued. “We are creating an Army that consists of 33 active-duty combat brigades now but is growing to 43, and we are doing it over the next two years. We’ve got to fill those ranks, and the responsibility for doing that falls on Recruiting Command and Cadet Command on the front

end, and on our training centers to produce the talent we need, ready to fight.

“I can’t think of a finer officer in this great Army to lead that effort than Gen. Bob Van Antwerp,” said Byrnes.

“I feel like I’ve just won the lottery,” Van Antwerp responded in his remarks. He also spoke of his genuine respect and admiration for Byrnes.

Van Antwerp went on to speak highly of all the Soldiers within his command and their areas of responsibility.

Of the Army’s drill sergeants he said: “They represent one of the most awesome groups of people I’ve met.”

Of the Soldiers of Recruiting Command he said: “To bring in young people ... to train those people up. I will tell you (and) the young people of the world, we give a chance, a start. ... My personal feeling is that every young person should do this, and if we can get 100 percent, that’s what we’ll do.”

Of the Soldiers of Cadet Command he said: “Another passion I have is for the young officers – what they do and the leadership they exhibit. You would not believe what goes on in the desert right now every day. The flexibility, adaptability, the agility they show ... is awesome.”

Of the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, he said: “I am so proud of what they’re doing. I’m so proud of the way we’re preparing Soldiers today, and yet our challenge is to go to the next step.”

And, in closing, Van Antwerp offered one final thought: “After all is said and done, I hope it can be said that Accessions Command is better because I was here.”

6 X 7 AD

# Provost Marshal Office secures post, community

BY INV. MATTHEW LONDON  
FORT MONROE PROVOST MARSHAL OFFICE

Protecting facilities and equipment, and providing a secure environment for Soldiers, civilians and family members to live, work and train, are the two primary missions of the Fort Monroe Provost Marshal Office.

PMO also serves as an advisor to leaders of Headquarters TRADOC for military police and force protection issues.



The 233rd Military Police Company maintains 24-hour MP support that includes patrols, desk operations and general security. The MPs maintain discipline and enforce laws and regulations and provide support for crime prevention.

### Desk sergeants

The MP station is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The MP “desk” is the information reporting office. The desk sergeant dispatches patrols and services to emergencies or minor complaints in order of urgency.

### Road patrols

MP patrols are the most visible part of the Fort Monroe law enforcement team. Their primary role is to “protect, serve, and defend.” This is done by policing and enforcing laws in the community. Road patrols respond to incidents, investigate suspicious activities, apprehend offenders and ensure the security of personnel and property on post.

### Military Police Investigation

The MPI office investigates minor crimes on the installation and assists the Criminal Investigation Division with felony cases. MPI can also assist external law enforcement agencies with investigations of incidents involving Soldiers and civilians occurring off post.

They also receive and maintain evidence obtained by MPs at crime scenes, coordinate and assist with VIP missions and provide fingerprint services.

### Initial vehicle registration

Personnel living or working on post must have their vehicles registered at the MP station. The required documents to register vehicles are:

- ☐ Valid government ID card
- ☐ Proof of insurance

- ☐ Valid state registration
- ☐ Valid drivers license
- ☐ Safety inspection (if applicable)

Those same documents are required for motorcycle registration along with a valid motorcycle license and an authorized motorcycle safety training course certificate/card.

4X12

2X5

# NewsClips

The new parking lot located inside the moat in the vicinity of Building 5 is complete and open for general parking. Do not park in entrances or exits to this lot.

## Movie makers wanted at YS

Fort Monroe Youth Services has received a grant of hardware and software from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America as part of a Digital Arts Festival running through this spring.

This grant promotes creativity and computer education with practical applications. So far, youth have manipulated pictures and digitized music. They will tackle movie making next. All projects are completed at the Community Activities Center.

Program coordinator, Franklin Scott, plans to begin a new project in January, so sign up today.

All participants must be YS members. For more information, call 788-2427.

## Chapel choir needed

There is an opening for a choir director at the Chapel of the Centurion on post.

The applicant must have a bachelor's degree in music, preferably in vocal education, choral conducting, church music or vocal performance.

To schedule an interview, call the Post Chaplain's Office at 788-2611.

## Essay contest

The February 2005 African-American/Black History month observance on post will include several special events.

One is an essay contest based on the upcoming observance's theme, "The Niagara Movement." The contest runs from Dec. 1 to Feb. 7 and is open to children in grades four to 12 throughout Fort Monroe and the surrounding communities.

Visit [www.tradoc.army.mil/monroe](http://www.tradoc.army.mil/monroe) for entry information.

Information on the other events will be published in the Casemate, posted on the Fort Monroe home page and distributed electronically in the coming weeks.

The point of contact for the observance is Sgt. 1st Class Selvin Walker at 788-2373.

## Last-minute gift ideas

Holiday gift shoppers hoping for a last-minute bargain may want to visit the Fort Monroe Fitness Center.

Gift certificates are available for items at the Fitside Perk and fitness equipment and apparel. A new shipment of sweatshirts, short- and long-sleeve T-shirts, and tote bags recently arrived. Golf simulator certificates are also available.

Call 788-3090, or stop by the front counter in the lobby of the center, for more information.

## Exchange interest rate to rise

The Army and Air Force Exchange Credit Program is raising the interest rate for the Military STAR card to 10 percent, a .25 percentage point increase over the old rate.

The increase is based on the Nov. 10 announcement by the Federal Reserve that raised the prime rate to five percent.

Military STAR card terms and conditions state that the interest charged will be based upon the current prime rate plus five percent.

The interest rate will become effective after the January billing statement. Any new purchases after the January billing statement will

constitute acceptance of the revised rate.

Customers will receive notification of the rate change in their December billing statements.

The rate increase doesn't apply to the zero-interest Military Clothing Plans, special promotions already in existence or to deployed customers whose balances are treated under special conditions or have balances at reduced rates.

## A+ Computer Technician Class

The A+ Professional Computer Technician Class held on Fort Eustis this fall was such a success that the installation's education center is again partnering with Thomas Nelson Community College to offer this 11-week program again, beginning in January.

The program is an opportunity for students to become certified computer technicians and start a career in the information technology field. The course runs from Jan. 21 through Apr. 2 and will be held on Fridays from 6 to 10 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Students can register with the TNCC representative at the Fort Eustis Education Center, Bldg. 1500, Room 204 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by calling TNCC directly at 825-2937 or 2935.

Eligible students may be able to use Army tuition assistance or their Montgomery GI Bill benefits for this program.

Further information is also available at the Fort Monroe Army Education Center at 788-2454.

More NEWS CLIPS, Page 13

6 X 7  
AD

Celebrating Fort Monroe History

Post fire department celebrates 175th



*This Casemate Museum photo was donated by an Army lieutenant colonel whose father served with the fire department here in 1911.*

BY DAVID J. JOHNSON  
CASEMATE MUSEUM

As our primitive ancestors discovered, fire is both a blessing and a curse. It can provide heat and light, but it can also destroy lives and property. Old Point Comfort has experienced both aspects of fire from its earliest recorded history. Indeed, the first fortification on this piece of land, Fort Algernourne, was destroyed by fire in 1612. There was no fire department then or for many years afterward. During the Civil War William Baulch arrived at Fort Monroe from

Brooklyn, New York, to organize and lead a firefighting unit. Baulch served as the fort's fire chief for several decades, in addition to his business enterprises on the post. At that time the fire station was a one-story wooden structure next to the post chapel, but in 1881 the department moved to its present location in Building 24. Unfortunately, we know almost nothing about the firemen who served here until recent times. There is some evidence that during the Coast Artillery era (1901-46) See FIRE, Page 16

CHAPLAIN\_\_\_\_\_

Continued from Page 2

and never fades or depreciates. It is refreshing and delightful. It is the gift of eternal life and it is available for all who will ask. Maybe this Christmas you are not in the position to buy expensive gifts for all of the people you know and love, but there is still a gift you have that you can give any time of year ... friendship. It may come in many different ways. Being a good listener is a gift of friendship. Forgiving someone for a wrong against you is a gift of friendship. It can come by way of giving a person another chance to prove themselves. It may come in reconciling relationships (husband/wife, parent/child). Friendship can restore broken relationships. No longer do you need to worry about what gift you need to give for Christmas, the answer lies deep inside of you. Jesus said "the Kingdom of God is in you." It is a gift to be given away. The gift of friendship is a gift that is not for keeping to yourself and it, too, must be given away. Christmas comes once a year, but friendship is everyday and it is priceless. Do something different this Christmas. Give the gift of friendship and you will have Christmas all the year round.

4 X 10  
AD

2 X 4.5  
AD



# Drowning in Debt

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Mama would say, stay away from incorrigible kids with bad reputations - because they don't mean you any good. Think of Beverly Nicholson, consumer affairs and financial assistance manager, as mama and credit cards as "those kids."

During this shopping season, some post personnel get into trouble with credit card use because they don't realize how much they are really spending, especially considering what credit costs, said Nicholson during a Nov. 23 interview.

"If my parents taught me not to use credit cards and I never experienced anything about credit cards, I'm going to pick up that information from my friends. And, not only

## Credit card interest mounts during holidays

which is standard for store credit cards - and that no other purchases are made within the nine years. In this example, accrued interest is \$1,266. The borrower repays \$2,266.

A \$1,000 balance may not seem uncontrollable except that most people have more than one card

plus \$7,283 in interest. A \$3,000 principle accrues \$13,301 in interest over the 41 years it takes to pay it off when only making minimum payments.

"It's a rip-off," said Nicholson. "The balances I usually see are \$2,000 to \$3,000 per card. Most of the people who come to me have balances that amount to \$10,000 to \$15,000; that's about five cards per person."

As a financial assistance manager, Nicholson's goal is to help Soldiers become debt free.

"Many people hear that this (financial management) program is here and come over. As a matter of fact, some people are not in financial trouble other than having outstanding balances, not that they are running late; they are in control of everything. Their goal is to get out of debt as quickly as possible, and that's a good thing.

"A lot of them may be looking toward retirement and thinking

that, before they leave the military, they want to be debt free. They have three years before retirement and come in and say, 'Hey, this is what I owe. What do you think? How much do I need to put down or what is the strategy so I will be debt free before retirement?' And, that happens more often than people think," she added.

When there is an urgent situation, Nicholson dons the Army Emergency Relief hat to accomplish three things. She takes care of the emergency, creates a financial "get-well" plan and teaches financial skills for clients to apply long term.

"We want to teach them to be better financial managers so they won't have to keep coming back. It is easier to use the band-aid approach, but that's not going to resolve the situation. My job is to assist them and teach them skills that ensure they are equipped for the future. They may not know how they got into a financial bind, but we want to teach them so they won't continue in it," she said.

"I can look at their budget, make some suggestions and together we can come up with some options so that person will not have to go into debt. But, that person must be open minded," she said.

She said people can avoid the bullying credit card rates that exist with prudent financial management and they can find the tools to do so at ACS.

***"I think part of the problem is that people who are not educated in this area get caught up in it because it does sound like a good deal."***

**Beverly Nicholson**

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGER

that, but I will be enticed by the media and whoever else is selling those cards - telemarketers and other people," Nicholson said.

People typically begin shopping around November and some set a goal to pay off their credit cards with their income tax refunds. She said that others just let the balance "run its course."

"It sounds like a good deal if they show me how I can get this item with a credit card with a \$1,000 balance on it and all I have to pay is \$20 a month. The piece (of the puzzle) they don't reveal is that it's going to cost twice as much to pay off this card. I think part of the problem is that people who are not educated in this area get caught up in it because it does sound like a good deal," she said.

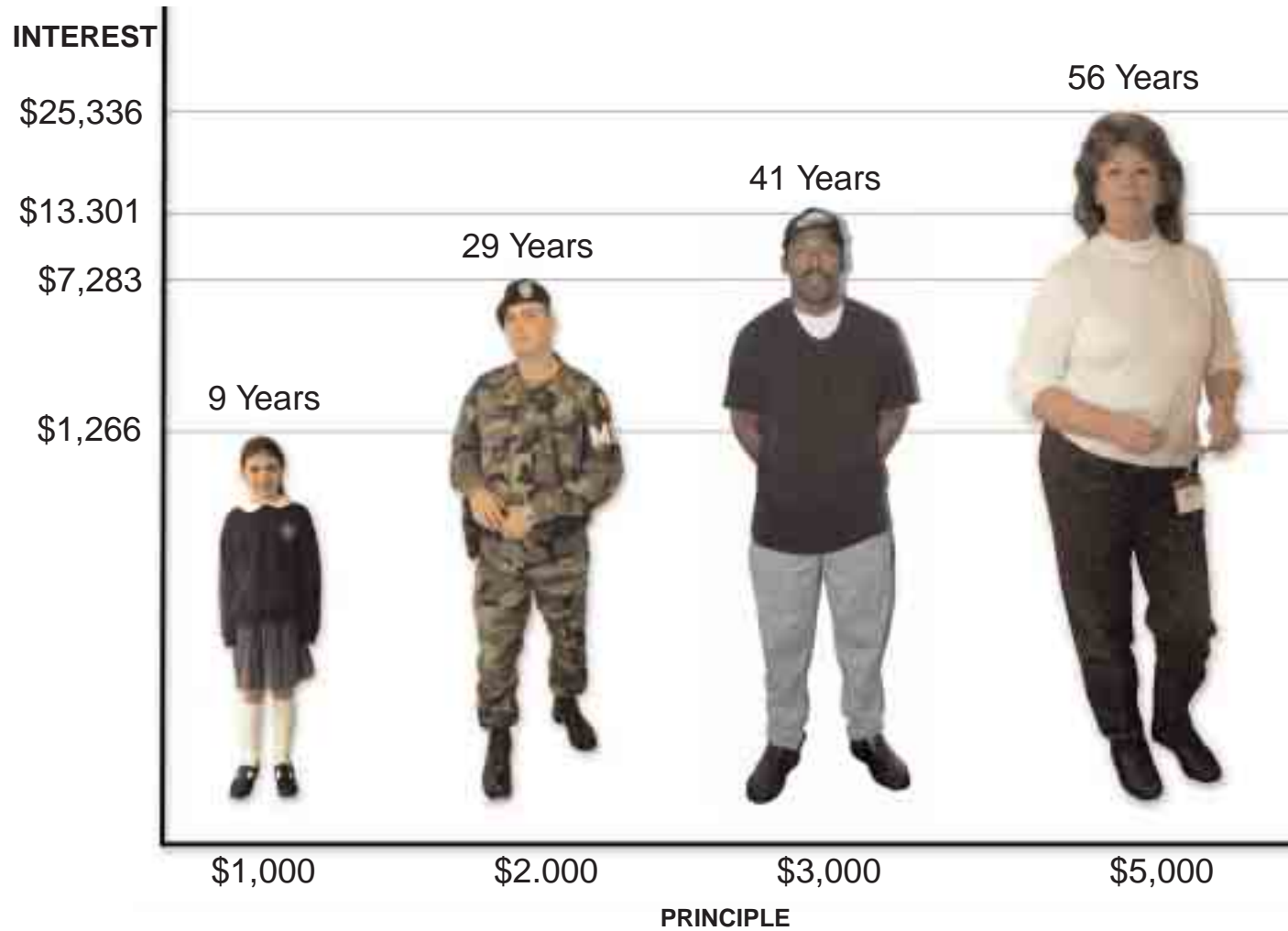
"Those who are educated about credit cards usually pay off the balances when they are due and they only charge the amount they can pay off in full each time. Those who do not have that credit card knowledge tend to just go with the flow not realizing they can make more than just the minimum monthly payment. That can save them money. Those who know it, usually pay more. Those who do not know it, just go with the minimum payment ... that can take a long time (to pay the balance in full)," Nicholson said.

A long time is almost an understatement. It can take nine years to satisfy a \$1,000 credit card balance when making minimum payments of two percent, according to the CNN Money Debt Planner Web site. This assumes a 21 percent annual percentage rate of interest -

and rarely charge such a low amount.

Interest paid on credit cards increases exponentially at a rate that seems illogical to the average consumer. If the principle is \$2,000 and the consumer makes only minimum payments, it will take 29 years to pay the \$2,000 principle

This illustration shows the amount of time it could take to repay a credit card and amount of interest paid (in addition to the original amount borrowed). All figures are based on no other purchases being made and only the minimum required payment of two percent. The interest rate of the credit card is 21 percent.





# Band holiday concert packs post theater

*The U.S. Continental Army Band's annual "Holiday Celebration Concert" drew a massive crowd to the post theater Saturday. The show featured musical guests Matt Ashford, pictured right — a.k.a. Jack Deveraux from the television soap "Days of Our Lives" — and Christina Saffran Ashford, pictured below, who has appeared in several top-rated Broadway productions and recently released a solo album. The duo performed a wide range of holiday favorites ranging from "Do You Hear What I Hear" to "Feliz Navidad." The show concluded with an audience sing-along led by the Ashford's and the Old Dominion University choir, also featured performers. TUSCAB's jazz band and pop music group "Crossfire" were also highlighted during the show.*



Photos by Patrick Buffett



*Photo left: Emma Ashford joins her dad on stage to sing "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth." Matt Ashford followed her performance with a dramatic reading of the Francis P. Church editorial "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," which first appeared in an 1897 edition of the New York Sun. Photo above: The U.S. Continental Army Band, under the direction of Maj. Andrew Esch, opens the concert with an intrumental version of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." Also pictured at the back of the stage is the Old Dominion University Choir, who later sang "Deck the Halls" under the direction of Dr. Nancy Kirkland Klein.*

# Monroe kicks off season with holiday tree event

*More than 100 Fort Monroe community members gathered at Cannon Park near post headquarters Dec. 2 for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. A quintet from The U.S. Continental Army Band, which included trumpet player Sgt. Benjamin Fairfield, pictured right, opened the event with seasonal music. Two local Girl Scouts helped Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, garrison commander, flip a switch and light the post tree. The ceremony concluded with a visit from Santa Claus, who posed for photos with children in the Fitness Center.*





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# Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell run



Photos by Patricia Radcliffe

**A reindeer herd from Fort Monroe's 233rd Military Police Detachment trots along Fenwick Road during Tuesday's Jingle Bell Run. Pictured are: l-r, Sgt. Greg Hoyt, Staff Sgt. Orlando Saldana, Spc. Chris Walter, Sgt. Sally "Rudolph" Curlis and Spc. George Whalen. Photo right: Maj. Thomas Barrett runs the course with "Pseudo Santas" in tow.**



**Above, an unidentified participant introduces her K-9 buddy to would-be Jingle Bell runners. Center photo: Elf, Renee Nixon, and Santa, Pete Yates, greet participants while perched atop a fire engine.**





# NEWS CLIPS

Continued from Page 5

## OCC offers consumers holiday tips on gift cards

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) issued a consumer advisory providing important information that holiday shoppers should have about the terms and conditions that apply to gift cards.

Some issuers, for example, deduct a monthly fee from the gift card or apply inactivity fees if the card has not been used for a period of time. Gift card holders may not realize that the value of the cards have been reduced until they use them for a purchase. The OCC suggests that consumers make sure they have received disclosures on some of the important terms and conditions of the gift card they purchase, including:

- Fees, if any, that apply to the gift card, including those that apply after the sale and reduce the value of the card.
- Expiration date of the gift card.
- Procedures to follow if a card is lost or stolen.
- Locations at which the gift card can be used.
- Procedures to follow if there are problems with the gift card.

If these disclosures are not stated on the gift card itself, or its packaging, the OCC suggests that consumers check to see if there is a toll-free number or web site that will provide this information. Consumers are encouraged to read "OCC Tips for Consumers This Holiday Season" on the OCC's web site: <http://www.occ.gov/>.

## Donating leave

Anyone wishing to donate leave to an employee within his/her agency must complete an OF630a form. To donate leave to an employee outside of one's agency, complete an OF630b form. Fax the form to CPAC, Attn: Davey Moore at 788-3387 by Jan. 7. Access [http://tradoc.monroe.army.mil/cpac/Leave%20Recipients/leave\\_transfer\\_program.htm](http://tradoc.monroe.army.mil/cpac/Leave%20Recipients/leave_transfer_program.htm) to view names of leave post recipients and <http://www.eustis.army.mil/cpac/private/Leave/LTP4BB.html> for Fort Eustis recipients. Follow Fort Eustis procedures if to donate to one of their employees. Call Kimberly G. Rhoades at 788-2759 for more information.

## Leadership course

The Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) course will be held Feb. 14 to 18 at the Fort Eustis Reserve Center, Bldg. 1034, Schultz Place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is Phase II of mandatory supervisory training and must be completed within six months of appointment to one's first supervisory position. The Supervisor Development Course (SDC) is Phase I and is a prerequisite for the LEAD course. (Proof of SDC completion must be provided.)

The SDC can be taken online via the Fort Monroe CPAC Web-page [http://tradoc.monroe.army.mil/cpac/supervisor\\_development\\_course.htm](http://tradoc.monroe.army.mil/cpac/supervisor_development_course.htm). Seats are limited. Request for the course must be received before Jan. 20.

Call Lisa Mitchell at 788-2083 for more information.

## Toastmasters meet

It is time to make your New Year's resolutions for better communication skills. Guests are welcome at the first Future Leaders And Thinkers Toastmaster Club meeting of the New Year on Monday, Jan. 10 in Bldg. 10, 2nd floor ACA conference room at 11:40 a.m. Toastmasters International's training programs are recognized by the Office of Personnel Management as a training venue for government employees. For more information, call Janet Geisler at 788-2407, or Donna Satisfield at 788-3864.

## PX hours of operation for Christmas, New Years

	<u>Dec. 24</u>	<u>Dec. 26</u>	<u>Dec. 31</u>
Main PX	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	11 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Military Clothing			
Sales Store	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	11 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Class Six Shoppette	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	11 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Barber Shop	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cleaners	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Alterations	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ruby's Deli	Normal	Closed	Normal

Note: All PX shops are closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The Historical and Archeological Society will meet at Delargy's Bistro Jan. 3 at 11:30 a.m. Museum curator Michael Cobb will present Fort Wool's history. Call David Johnson at 788-3935 for more information.

2X2

# AUSA Employee of the Year



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Carlton Bailey replaces decals on Audrey Authur's car on Wednesday. According to the provost marshal, his customer care helped earn him the Association of the United States Army Civilian Employee of the Year award he received Dec. 3.**

## Information about Bailey

**Directorate:** Provost Marshal's Office  
**Job/position and duties:** Vehicle registration clerk  
**How long at current assignment:** 1 1/2 years  
**How long in govt./military service:** Air Force - 22 years  
**Family:** Son, Christian  
**Outside activities:** Photography, reading and writing  
**What the award means:** It's humbling to me to know that people appreciate the job I do. I'm grateful for it.

3X7

# MoatNotes

## 2004 CHRISTMAS SERVICES

<i>Chapel of the Centurion</i>	<i>Saint Mary's Star of the Sea</i>
General Protestant . . . Dec. 24, 6 p.m.	Liturgy . . . . . Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m.
General Protestant . . . Dec. 24, 8 p.m.	Liturgy . . . . . Dec. 24, 10 p.m.
Episcopal . . . . . Dec. 24, 11 p.m.	Mass . . . . . Dec. 25, 10 a.m.
For more information, call 788-2611	



### Dec. 17

#### Paws and claws

Santa has set up shop in Lightfoot at the Williamsburg Outlet Mall today for Paws and Claws Night. Bring your furry friends out from 5 to 9 p.m. to take professional photos with St. Nick.

While enjoying the day's event, patrons can also enter to win four \$100 mall gift certificates. Registration begins at 5 p.m. at Santa's House across from Totes. Ticket prices start at \$5 for the hourly drawings, which kick off at 6 p.m. You must be present to win. Proceeds benefit the Heritage Humane Society.

Starting tomorrow, Santa will be available at the mall every Saturday and Sunday until Christmas for visits and photos with the youngsters from noon to 5 p.m. The hours will be 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 20 to 23 and from noon to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

For more information, contact the management office at 565-3378.

#### Celebration in lights

Today through Jan. 1 from 5:30. to 10:00 p.m. take a two-mile drive through Newport News Regional Park and view the spectacular holiday light display, "100 Miles of Lights."

Over 650,000 lights create whimsical toys, elegant swans and scenes from Virginia's past portrayed in a kaleidoscope of dazzling color. During the dark winter evenings, the park's lakes become magical mirrors reflecting sailing ships and "spring" blossoming trees. Dazzling animated arches featuring an elf train, multi-colored snowflakes, leaping reindeer and a ski-jumping bear will delight the young and young-at-heart.

Admission is \$8 per car, \$50 for buses. The park is located at exit 250B from I-64. For more information, call 926-1400.

#### Holiday lore

Celebrate the holiday season with the Williamsburg Library Theatre as it presents "A Child's Christmas in Wales" this evening and throughout the coming week. All showtimes are 7:30, except for Sunday's matinee performance, which begins at 2 p.m.

Traditional carols and tender storytelling mark this delightful, charming and humorous Yuletide favorite, which is based on the writings of Dylan Thomas. A quartet of singing actors will present the works in a readers' theater style, with traditional holiday carols woven throughout.

### Toy Score!



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Susie Pugh and Stephen Hayward of NERO help pack toys donated to the Toys for Tots drive by their organization on Tuesday. Over 680 toys and \$765 were collected on post.**

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students with ID and \$8 for children under 16. For more information, or to reserve seats, call 259-4070.

#### Winter wonderland

A six-decades-old tradition has been revived in Portsmouth as Coleman Nursery Gardentown's celebrated "Winter Wonderland" collection is back on display. The popular exhibit can be seen at the Courthouse Galleries on High and Court streets today through Jan. 2.

This holiday ritual started in 1966 with a sleeping, snoring Santa and grew to 800 animated figures over the years. About a quarter of these delightful figures will be on display in the museum's entrance and main galleries.

Make your Winter Wonderland tour even more special by taking advantage of free horse-drawn carriage rides through Olde Towne. Ever After Farms will run a continuous loop through the quaint district now until Jan. 2. The schedule is 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from

noon to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

The exhibit and carriage rides are free and open to the public.

For more information call, 393-8983, 393-8543 or 393-5111.

### Dec. 18

#### Big band holiday

A Big Band Holiday is returning to Hampton's Mary T. Christian Auditorium for another year to set the tone for the holiday season.

Beginning at 8 p.m., Saturday, four exceptional vocalists join Percy Ironmonger's 18-piece Super Jazz Band for the evening. After a dessert reception at intermission, guests can break out their dancing shoes because the floor will be open to cut a rug.

Tickets are \$30 with proceeds benefiting a local human service non-profit. For tickets or more information, call 867-9674.

#### Food drive party

Help councilwoman Sharon P. Scott and the City of Newport News wipe out hunger this holiday season

by joining the 3rd Annual North District Food Drive Party Saturday from noon to midnight, at American Legion Post 368, Newport News.

With a donation of at least one non-perishable food item, guests can enjoy holiday music, food, drink and dancing. Contributions to the food drive will benefit disadvantaged citizens who live in the North District.

Several businesses in the Newport News area have also set up drop boxes for the drive. For more information, contact Scott's office at 265-8714.

#### Wildlife feast

Create a feast for Sandy Bottom Nature Park's wild birds and mammals during a special program Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m., in Hampton.

Participants will help park rangers whip together a tasty concoction that the park's critters love. Kids can even take some of the mixture home for some of their backyard buddies.

The program takes place at the Lakeside Pavilion near the Nature Center. The fee is \$2. For more information, call 825-4657.

### Dec. 19

#### Heartwarming tale

As part of its, "Peanut Butter & Jam Family Series: Gift of the Shepherd Boy," the Virginia Symphony chorus presents "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at Chrysler Hall, Norfolk. The performance begins at 3 p.m., Sunday.

Lead by conductor Jerome Shannon and featuring chorus master Robert Shoup, the show relates the classic story of a young boy who suffers tragically, but is healed by his pure heart, giving all he has to someone he does not even know.

Tickets start at \$18 for adults and \$9 for children. For more information, call 892-6366 or 466-3060.

#### At The Movies

Showing at the Fort Eustis Theater\*

Friday, Dec. 17

7 p.m. — SAW (R)

Saturday, Dec. 18

2 p.m. — The Polar Express (G)

7 p.m. — After The Sunset (PG-13)

**No movies will be shown on Christmas weekend ... Happy Holidays from your AAFES Theaters.**

\*The Langley Air Force Base movie theater is closed for renovations.

Adults \$2, children 6-12 years old \$1.50 and children under 6 are free. If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50. Special movie showings are available. Contact John Low at LowJ@aafes.com or 766-1237 for details.



‘Sounds of the Season’

Classical guitarist Robin Welch presents “The Sounds of the Season” during a special performance Sunday at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Newport News. The free performance is scheduled from 7 to 8 p.m. in the nature center conference room.

Welch has been performing at local gatherings for more than 20 years. She is a regularly featured artist at The Jewish Mother, a popular Virginia Beach restaurant. Her upcoming performance will feature many holiday favorites that the whole family will enjoy.

Seating is limited to 100 people. For reservations, call 825-4657.

Dec. 20

‘A Scottish Christmas’

Imagine a crisp Scottish winter’s day...the air is spiced with the scent of strong wassail, a dusting of snow, and the haunting call of the bagpipes over the Highlands.

This delightful show, “A Scottish Christmas,” comes to the American Theatre Phoebus, at 7:30 p.m., Monday. It features some of the most legendary Celtic musicians from Scotland and North America, blending the sounds of the fiddle, bagpipes, uilleann pipe, border pipes, Celtic harp, bodran (Celtic frame drum) and voice.

Traditional dancers add grace

and excitement to this elegant celebration of the holiday season. Riveting fiddle and pipe solos, fiery Scottish dances including tap and soft shoe lead up to an emotional finale in which the audience links arms to sing “Auld Lang Syne.”

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$30 for reserved seating. For more information, call 722-2787.

Dec. 22

Holiday Brass

The Virginia Symphony Brass brings its holiday show to Newport News’ Ferguson Performing Arts Center Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Under the direction of conductor Shizuo Kuwahara, the brass will be joined by harp and percussions players to perform an array of holiday favorites.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For more details, call 892-6366, 466-3060 or 466-3047.

Dec. 23

‘A Christmas Carol’

Back by popular demand, the Virginia Stage Company is proud to present “A Christmas Carol” at the Wells Theatre, corner of Tazewell & Monticello, in Norfolk, on Christmas Eve.

This classic Dickens’ story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his encounters with the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future has entertained and enlightened thousands of spectators, teaching us the true meaning of the holiday season.

Admission is free. For show times, call the box office at 627-1234.

Dec. 30

Global celebration

Bring the family and join in the song, dance and the festivities of a global celebration from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 30 at the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk.

Participants can learn holiday histories and traditions and create decorative works of art with seasonal observances of the Americas, Asia, and Europe. The cost is free with museum membership or included with Museum admission.

Planetarium show

It’s not too late to catch the Holiday Planetarium Show being offered by the Children’s Museum of Virginia, located in downtown Portsmouth, as performances continue between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 30 and 31.

This story is certain to rekindle your holiday spirit as it unwraps the secrets of the traditions of the season.

Dec. 31

Enchanted eve

Join the Virginia Symphony at Regent University, Virginia Beach, on New Year’s Eve for an evening of classical Viennese waltzes and timeless New Year’s favorites all performed under the baton of JoAnn Falletta.

The show opens at 7 p.m. after a pre-concert reception in the Ballroom of the Founders Inn. Round out the evening with a stay at The Founders Inn, complete with breakfast in the elegant Swan Terrace on New Year’s Day. Ticket information was pending at press time.

For more information, call 892-6366, 466-3060 or 466-3047.

Jan. 2

Scottish walk

Why not keep your New Year’s celebration going a bit longer during Olde Towne Portsmouth’s Scottish Walk Jan. 2 from the corner of Queen and Washington Streets to High Street Landing?

The free festivities begin at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 393-1812.

Casemate 2005 Schedule

The deadline to submit calendar events or externally produced stories or photos to the Casemate is **noon Friday**, one week before publication. If the deadline falls on a training or regular holiday, please submit materials before close of business on last duty day prior to that date.

The publication and story deadline dates for 2005 are:

Issue No.	Issue Date	Deadline
No. 1	Jan. 7	Dec. 30
No. 2	Jan. 21	Jan. 14
No. 3	Feb. 4	Jan. 28
No. 4	Feb. 18	Feb. 11
No. 5	Mar. 4	Feb. 25
No. 6	Mar. 18	Mar. 11
No. 7	Apr. 1	Mar. 25
No. 8	Apr. 15	Apr. 8
No. 9	Apr. 29	Apr. 22
No. 10	May 13	May 6
No. 11	May 27	May 20
No. 12	June 10	June 3
No. 13	June 24	June 17
No. 14	July 8	July 1
No. 15	July 22	July 15
No. 16	Aug. 5	July 29
No. 17	Aug. 19	Aug. 12
No. 18	Sept. 2	Aug. 26
No. 19	Sept. 16	Sept. 9
No. 20	Sept. 30	Sept. 23
No. 21	Oct. 14	Oct. 7
No. 22	Oct. 28	Oct. 21
No. 23	Nov. 11	Nov. 4
No. 24	Nov. 25	Nov. 18
No. 25	Dec. 9	Dec. 2

For more information, call Patrick Buffett, editor, at 788-3520; or Pat Radcliffe, assistant editors, at 788-3531.

Clip and Save

Desert Decorations



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Lt. Col. Marsha Hansen inspects troops and equipment on the mantle of the Future Center’s fireplace on Wednesday in front of the ‘blue Christmas’ themed tree adorned with blue and yellow ribbon. The display is dedicated to troops serving overseas and won the most patriotic award. Other winning entries to the post decorating contest include the most creative: Quarters 41-B (Hansen family); the most original: Quarters 35 Reeder Circle (Landrey, Bjorklands, Gaskins and King families); the most traditional: Fenwick Road (Perry family) and the most traditional: Quarters 1, Army Community Services.**

# Cadet Command staffers conquer contest with Cajun concoction

BY BELINDA BAKER  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The piquant aroma wafting from bubbling pots told all who entered Fort Monroe's Bay Breeze Community Center Dec. 2 that something delicious was in the offing that day.

Fourteen hopeful "chefs" had toiled for hours, relentlessly stirring their saucy mixtures adding a dash of this and smidgen of that. Wait ... Don't forget about the secret ingredient that each culinary artist undoubtedly guarded like highly classified government information.

It's chili after all, and it was serious business for participants in Cadet Command's annual Chili Cook-off.

When the jalapeno vapors cleared and the judges laid down their spoons, Lt. Col. Ted Wadsworth and his cohort Sgt. Alfred Landry emerged victorious. Their entry, Aunt Carol Ann's Cajun Chili, beat competitors to earn the title "best chili." The two Louisiana natives now own bragging rights at Cadet Command as chili champions.

"I'm a marketing guy. When it's all said and done, a bowl of chili is a bowl of chili. (But) it's all in the presentation ... how you package it and how you sell it. Landry was responsible for the presentation. He did an excellent job dressing up our display," said Wadsworth, chief

of marketing for USACC.

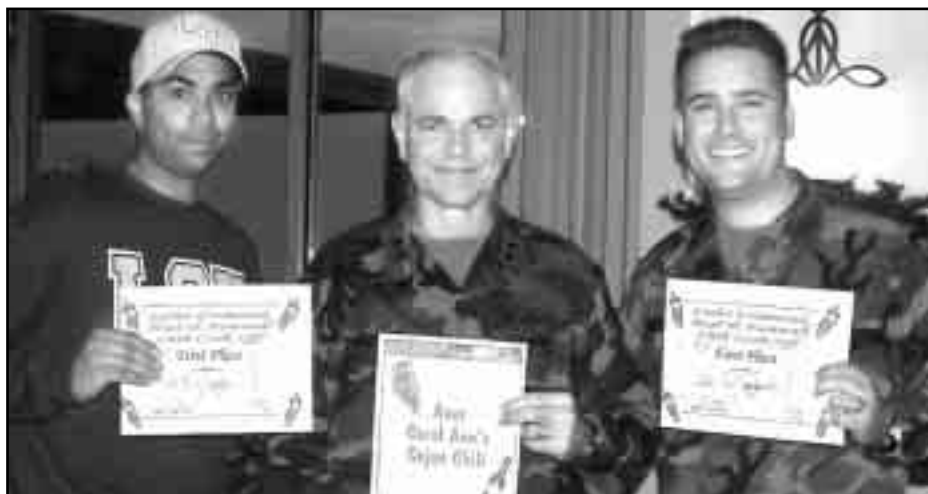
He said Landry's creative use of props probably swayed the judges in their favor. "We used Mardi Gras beads, French bread and an assortment of hot sauces and spices to create just the right setting," said Landry. "With us both being such big Louisiana State University tiger fans and them winning the national championship last year, the least we could do was win the chili championship."

On top of that, their recipe had some unique twists. "Being a Cajun chili, it has to have that Louisiana flare, so we put in a lot of shrimp. One other interesting thing is that we also used sirloin. You grill sirloin to add a charcoal taste and then mince the meat," said Wadsworth.

"We wanted to also add crawfish but couldn't find any suitable enough to use. We went with what we had and hoped for the best. It felt good to win," added Landry, a USACC driver.

Interestingly enough, neither Soldier had ever cooked chili before entering the contest nor did they rely on some ancient recipe from either of their families. However, they did turn to their home state for assistance.

"We called my aunt Carol Ann, a Cajun from south Louisiana, and she got on the mission. She got together with a couple of her



Contributed Photo

**U.S. Army Cadet Command Chili Cook-off Contest winners Sgt. Alfred Landry, left, and Lt. Col. Ted Wadsworth, right, pose with event judge, Maj. Gen. Alan Thrasher, USACC Commander.**

friends and they invented the recipe one night over a couple of glasses of wine. It's really amazing that they just created it from scratch," Wadsworth explained.

The USACC cook-off has been held on post for at least five years, according to Sandra Midkiff, assistant to Col. Tom Cleary director of the Resource Management Directorate. This year's judges were Maj. Gen. Alan Thrasher, USACC CG; Brig. Gen. Gratton Sealock, II, USACC DCG; and Col. Radames Cornier, Jr., USACC Chief of Staff.

Midkiff said the Resource Management sponsored event attracted about 100 people who were able to

buy bowls of chili and other fare after the contest. Proceeds supported the organization's Dec. 10 holiday ball.

Since earning champion status, Wadsworth graciously shared the prize-winning chili recipe via a widely distributed e-mail. Given that, the lieutenant colonel said he and Landry agreed to retire as champions with no plans to enter other contests.

"I got permission from my aunt to share the recipe and she was happy to do it. We had great fun with this whole thing and now, since so many people have the recipe, we're satisfied with this one win," he said.

## FIRE

Continued from Page 9

"On December 24, 1870, the Old Point Billiard Club burned to the ground ..."



Photo by Kathy Franz

**Fort Monroe firefighters battle the blaze that gutted one of Building 127's duplex housing units on April 3, 1996. The building was later restored and is still in use by families today.**

units assigned to Fort Monroe operated their own firefighting equipment. In 1944 the fire department reverted to civilian control, over the objections of Fort Monroe's commanding general, Rollin L. Tilton.

We do know that military and civilian members of the post fire department had to battle some spectacular and dangerous conflagrations over the years. The following events are particularly notable:

**On December 24, 1870**, the Old Point Billiard Club burned to the ground. This was a recreational facility for officers located in an ordnance building near Quarters No. 1. It was never rebuilt, but billiard tables were added to the officers' club in the Flagstaff Bastion between Casemates 20 and 21.

**On March 7, 1920**, fire apparently caused by faulty electrical wiring broke out in the first Chamberlin Hotel and spread rapidly, owing to an inexplicable delay in contacting the fire department. The structure was almost completely destroyed except for its brick foundations, which were soon razed. Old Point Comfort was left without a resort hotel until April 1928, when the second Chamberlin opened its doors.

**On April 24, 1933**, smoke began to appear in the area above the altar in the Chapel of the Centurion at the beginning of a memorial service for Sergeant Thomas Austin. The sergeant's coffin was quickly removed from the building and deposited on a porch across the street. The blaze caused considerable damage inside the church, but the building was saved.

**On June 14, 1944**, an early morning fire

destroyed the Officers' Beach Club, probably the result of carelessness rather than wartime sabotage. A new structure was completed in 1945, which fourteen years later became the Fort Monroe Club, with an enclosed dance floor and additions at each end of the building. It is now the Bay Breeze Community Center.

**On February 25, 1946**, a set of officers' quarters at the corner of Bernard and Ruckman Roads caught fire and burned for a long time before firemen were able to control the situation. The building was written off as a total loss and completely demolished. Ever since then the site has been a vacant lot.

**On October 1, 1981**, a spectacular fire destroyed the Yacht Club, piers, many boats and several vehicles along McNair Drive. This facility was eventually rebuilt and was recently expanded considerably.

**On April 3, 1996**, a workman with a blowtorch accidentally started a fire in Quarters No. 127 (145 and 147 Bernard Road), a duplex that was undergoing very extensive and expensive renovation. The left half of the building appeared to be a total loss but, to the surprise of many observers, the structure was entirely reconstructed and returned to usage as officers' quarters. Today it carries no visible fire scars at all.

Quite remarkably, there were no serious casualties in any of these incidents.

Destructive conflagrations are always a possibility here, but constant training, improvements in technology and emphasis on fire prevention should continue to lower the risks to life and property.